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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chaplain will lead the Senate in prayer.

Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Father Dennis Kleinmann of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Alexandria, VA.

### PRAYER

Almighty God, blessed are You Lord of mercy. You exemplify all virtue, including patience, purity, kindness, and humility. We thank You for the many graces You have bestowed upon us and our country: the freedoms we enjoy, the liberty to assemble as we do here today, and the right to enact laws which govern this Nation of ours. You allow us to be witnesses of justice and truth. You fill our hearts with love. You enrich us with courage and enable us to work for the good of all.

Through our Founding Fathers, these United States of America have been established as the protector of these rights and freedoms. You continue to bless us with men and women willing to serve these goals and this Nation tirelessly. God of truth, as this Senate meets yet again today may Your light of wisdom guide them and direct their deliberations that they may together always work peacefully and charitably. May they seek to promote national happiness. And as they discharge their duties this day may honesty and integrity rule their thoughts, words, and deeds.

We pray that these Your sons and daughters entrusted by Your authority with our welfare may act with knowledge and understanding. We ask that the peace only You can truly give be ours both now and forever. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska, led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS.)

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, June 17, 2003.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. MURKOWSKI thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 10 a.m. At 10 o'clock, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1, the prescription drug benefits bill.

Yesterday afternoon, a number of Senators came to the floor to begin this historic debate. I hope many Members will participate and will continue

to make, over the course of today, their opening statements on this important piece of legislation.

I ask unanimous consent that the bill be open for debate only until the hour of 2:15 today, and further, that the time until 2:15 be equally divided between the two managers or their designees.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Today, the Senate will be in recess from 12:30 until 2:15 for the weekly party lunches. Rollcall votes are possible during today's session, and we will notify all Members as these votes are scheduled over the course of the day.

Madam President, we will be turning our attention to Medicare shortly, and we will be focused on this significant, important piece of legislation for the next several days. Indeed, we will stay on this bill until we vote on its passage. As I looked over the progress from last week, I saw a lot of encouraging examples of consensus building and working together on both sides of the aisle, of progress and of achievement in a bipartisan cooperative way. We made huge progress in the debate on energy and, indeed, were able to pull together a finite number of amendments.

Over the course of the weekend and this week, the managers of that bill will be looking at those amendments to see how we can, in a very orderly way, come back and address energy and bring it to completion. We also, last week, completed our action on a number of important issues, one of which was the FAA reauthorization. We were able to do that in one day. I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their cooperation in moving this important and much-needed bill to completion.

We also passed the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act last week. In particular, I want to thank the distinguished majority whip, the Senator

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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